

trapezoidal shape of the hall was conditioned by a bend in the ledge of the rock serving as natural foundation of the castle. In the Throne Room, the marble stairs led to where a throne of gold and ivory should have been. This project wasn't completed; because after the King's death, all the work not yet begun was cancelled. There was a beautiful painting of Christ in His Glory with Mary and His favored disciple St. John. In the rear of the room was a painting of St. George fighting the Dragon. This picture shows on the far left the fourth castle the King planned to build, but didn't come to fruition because of his death. The gallery is supported by huge columns. The Chandelier in the shape of the Byzantine Crown was made of gilded brass and holds 96 candles. For cleaning and changing the candles, it is let down by a wench, a 1300 lb. weight. There are more than two million stones symbolizing the life of animals and plants from all over the world in the floor. The ceiling represents the heavens and the floor represents the earth.

The balcony of the Throne Room grants a splendid view over the Bavarian Alps. In the background, the mighty Thannheim Mountains are towering. In front of them are the two lakes, Alpsee, and on the right, Schwansee. The former Schwanstein Castle today is called "Hohenschwangau", where King Ludwig spent seventeen years of his childhood and youth. On September 5, 1869, the foundation stones of today's Neuschwanstein Castle was started. The dining room is situated three stories above the kitchen. Meals came to the dining room by a food lift. The centerpiece of the table is a present by Munich artists to the King. It was designed by Widman and executed by Wollenweber. The sculpture of gilded bronze depicts Siegfried fighting the dragon. The base of this table decoration weighs 275 lbs. and is polished marble of Carrara. The paintings in the room show details of life at the Wartburg Castle about 1202, painted by Piloboy of Munich, the well-known artist who worked at this castle.